

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

February

2020

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Daily Eastern News: February 20, 2020

Eastern Illinois University

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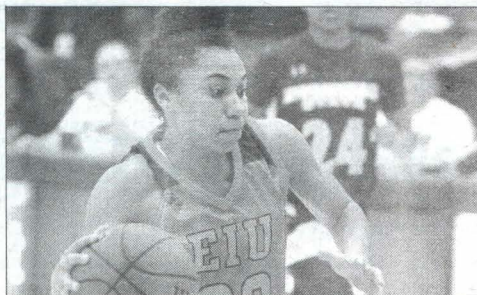
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STUDY ABROAD CLUB

The Student Senate approved the Study Abroad Club as a registered student organization during its meeting Wednesday evening.

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REVENGE GAME

The Eastern women's basketball teams hosts Murray State Thursday, hoping to avenge its January loss.

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Thursday, February 20, 2020

"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

VOL. 104 | NO. 100

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF COVERAGE

EST. 1915

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White Power posters found at Eastern

Investigation starting on racist flyers left around campus, many at Greek Court

Staff Report | @DEN_news

Plastic bags containing rocks and posters that read "White Power, Get Some!" with images of swastikas were found littered across campus Wednesday where they were left lying for students and staff to find.

A large number of the bags were found near Eastern's Greek Court. Police told one of the people who found a bag that they had 10 to 15 of the bags already in police custody, and they have reason to believe they are searching for a white van.

Police told this person, who wished to remain anonymous, that if

anyone sees a similar vehicle to take a picture of the license plate and call the police department.

The same posters in plastic bags with rocks were scattered throughout yards in Charleston in July, as reported by the *Journal-Gazette/Times-Courier*. During that incident police were looking for a white Dodge Caravan.

The *Daily Eastern News* will update this story as more information becomes available.

Eastern President David Glassman condemned the racist flyers in an email he sent to students on Wednesday evening.

In the email, Glassman says: "Earlier today, EIU was made aware

of offensive materials left around campus espousing white supremacy and promoting its affiliate organizations. As President of EIU, I intensely condemn these materials of hatred and propaganda. These materials have no place on our campus, and wholly contradict the university's commitments to its core values of diversity, inclusivity and equity."

Glassman urged anyone with more information on the white power posters to contact the University Police Department at 581-3213.

The news staff can be reached at 581-2812 or dennewsdesk@gmail.com.

Journalists talk covering murder trial

By Ryan Meyer

Staff Reporter | @DEN_news

Two reporters who covered the kidnapping and murder trial of University of Illinois student Yingying Zhang in 2017, Ben Zigterman of the *News-Gazette* and Eastern's own journalism instructor Joe Astrouski, formerly of WAND-TV, held a discussion concerning their coverage of the kidnapping in the Doudna Fine Arts Center Wednesday evening.

U of I graduate student Brendt Christensen was sentenced to life in prison for abducting and murdering Zhang.

The story garnered local and nationwide attention.

"This was a high-profile case ... People approached us on the street to ask us about this case. This is a case that garnered international attention, and I believe that our conversation tonight can be valuable and informative to all of us," Astrouski said.

The two reporters' discussion was intended not only to shed light on the killing, but also to educate students on covering high-profile events and using court records when researching.

"By making it easier for journalists to do their job, it also made it easier for the court to continue to function without being interrupted by reporters doing their work, and I think there's a real lesson there for anyone who has to work with media, especially something of this high profile," Astrouski said.

At first, it felt like any other reports of a kidnapping to seasoned reporters.

"I remember being a little skeptical because that first evening we were already hearing people throw around the word 'kidnapping,'" Astrouski said.

REPORTING, page 5



LOGAN RASCHKE | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Ben Zigterman, reporter for the *News-Gazette*, and Joe Astrouski, journalism professor and former reporter for WAND-TV, refer to the projector of slides during their discussion detailing their personal experiences covering the kidnapping and murder trial of Yingying Zhang, a crop scientist from the University of Illinois, Wednesday at the Doudna Fine Arts Center's Lecture Hall. During the discussion, Zigterman and Astrouski played a wired recording in which Brendt Christensen, the graduate student from the U of I who was convicted for Zhang's abduction and murder, confesses to his ex-girlfriend (the person wearing the wire) the crime. In the recording, Christensen is heard saying that he choked Zhang for 10 minutes while she struggled. Zigterman said that recording helped expose how truly "debased" Christensen was.

Merit Scholarship endowment reaches \$50K

By Analicia Haynes

Senior Reporter | @Haynes1943

The Commitment to Excellence Scholarship Endowment has reached \$50,000, a goal that was set in 2017.

However, the name of the scholarship program that the endowment is linked to has changed this year from "Commitment to Excellence Scholarships" to "Merit Scholarships."

Andrew McNitt, a retired political science professor who has been an advocate for the creation of the endowment since it started collecting funds in 2015, said now that the endowment has reached the \$50,000 mark, it can help the university offer the renewable merit based scholarship to one student every year.

The scholarship is renewable up to four years and is based on a tier system influenced by an incoming student's grade point average rather than just their ACT score, according to Eastern's website.

Incoming first-time freshmen with a 20 or higher ACT score and a GPA between 3.0 and 3.24 can receive \$2,000 annually, a student with a GPA between 3.25 and 3.49 can receive \$3,000 annually, and

a student with a GPA between 3.5 and 4.0 can receive \$4,000 annually.

The scholarship is also available to transfer students who have at least 15 credit hours transferred from an accredited college or university and a GPA between 3.0 and 4.0. Transfer students can receive \$1,500 annually if they have a GPA between 3.0 and 3.49, and \$2,500 annually with a GPA between 3.5 and 4.0.

In the beginning

McNitt said the idea of having an endowment was first brought up during former Eastern President William Perry's administration, when the scholarship program was created.

At first the scholarships were supposed to be funded by yearly state appropriations, McNitt said.

But when Illinois entered the budget impasse in 2015, Eastern did not receive its full appropriation for several years following that.

McNitt said helping to start the endowment was a way to do something about the loss of funding and give the university incentive

to continue the scholarship program.

McNitt, along with other Eastern faculty members including Kathleen Shank, retired special education department chair, came together to start raising money for the endowment.

"Kathleen Shank and I both very much wanted an endowment, and we had very different ideas ... and we sort of merged the two ideas and created the fundraising efforts to create the endowment," McNitt said.

In 2015 the goal was to put \$25,000 in the endowment within five years.

It took 18 months.

In spring 2017 a new goal was created to raise \$50,000, which McNitt said was achieved this year.

What next?

McNitt said the committee organizing fundraising efforts for the endowment will continue to raise funds.

SCHOLARSHIPS, page 5

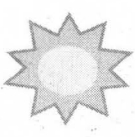
Local weather

THURSDAY



Partly Cloudy
High: 28°
Low: 15°

FRIDAY



Sunny
High: 37°
Low: 24°

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

"Tell the truth and don't be afraid."

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The Daily Eastern News is committed to accuracy in its coverage of the news. Any factual error the staff finds, or is made aware of by its readers, will be corrected as promptly as possible. Please report any factual error you find to Editor-in-Chief JJ Bullock at 581-2812.

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If you would like to work for The Daily Eastern News as a reporter, photographer, columnist, cartoonist, copy editor, designer or videographer, please visit at the newsroom at 1802 Buzzard Hall.

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Nation and State

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bloomberg expecting fierce attacks

LAS VEGAS (AP) — New York billionaire Mike Bloomberg faced the biggest test of his political life Wednesday night in Las Vegas as the surging Democratic presidential contender confronted his rivals on the debate stage for the first time.

The 78-year-old former Republican was making his debate debut as one of the Democrats' strongest six White House hopefuls — as determined by national polls — while the party's moderate wing struggles to unify behind an alternative to polarizing progressive Bernie Sanders.

The primetime showdown began at 9 p.m. EST. Bloomberg faced fierce attacks from Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders even before the debate began, raising the likelihood of a raucous affair just three days before Nevada voters decide the third contest of the Democratic Party's turbulent 2020 primary season. Bloomberg won't be on the ballot Saturday, yet he was expecting to face intense scrutiny on national television for the first time, having faced relatively little in his surprisingly swift

rise from nonpartisan megadonor to top-tier contender. "He is going to have a giant target on his back from all sides," said Democratic strategist Brian Brokaw. "It'll either all come together brilliantly or could fall apart very quickly."

On CNN early in the day, Sanders' national press secretary Briahna Joy Gray tried to rebut questions surrounding the Vermont senator's health by pointing to Bloomberg, who she said had also "suffered heart attacks in the past."

Sanders suffered a heart attack last fall and released letters from doctors attesting to his health. But Bloomberg has never suffered a heart attack; he released a doctors' letter last year that said he did undergo coronary stent surgery in 2000.

Gray later walked back her statement, saying on Twitter that she "misspoke" about Bloomberg's health.

Separately, the Biden campaign took on Bloomberg over ads that feature him working closely with former President Barack Obama. The Biden campaign posted a video on social media high-

lighting past comments Bloomberg made criticizing Obama on health care and climate change and accusing him of failing to address racism during his term.

The video also includes a clip of Bloomberg declaring "I'm a friend of Donald Trump's, he's a New York icon."

Bloomberg is avoiding the earliest primary states, focusing instead on campaigning in the 14 states that vote in the March 3 Super Tuesday primaries. And his massive campaign — with over 2,000 staffers nationwide and over \$400 million spent on ads already — has given him enough of a boost to win high-profile endorsements and double-digit support in the polls.

With much of the attention on Bloomberg, there is increasing fear from establishment-minded Democrats about Sanders' strength in the race. After he finished at the top in Iowa and New Hampshire, polls suggest the self-described democratic socialist is poised for another strong showing in Nevada's caucuses on Saturday.

UN: Thousands fleeing Syrian offensive, kids dying in cold

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of people fleeing a Russian-backed Syrian offensive are being squeezed into ever smaller areas near Turkey's border "under horrendous conditions" in freezing temperatures that are killing babies and young children, the U.N. humanitarian chief said Wednesday.

Mark Lowcock told the U.N. Security Council that "the unfolding humanitarian catastrophe" in northwest Idlib province, which is the last major rebel stronghold, has "overwhelmed" efforts to provide aid.

He said nearly 900,000 people have been displaced since Dec. 1 when the government offensive began, more than 500,000 of them children.

"Many are on foot or on the backs of trucks in below-freezing temperatures, in the rain and snow," Lowcock said. "They are moving into increasingly crowded areas they think will be safer. But in Idlib, nowhere is safe."

Lowcock, the undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs, said almost 50,000 people have taken shelter under trees and in open spaces. "I am getting daily reports of babies and other young children dying in the cold," he added.

U.N. special envoy Geir Pedersen echoed Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' expression of alarm on Tuesday at the rapid deterioration of the humanitarian situation "and the tragic suffering of civilians."

"Hostilities are now approaching densely populated areas such as Idlib city and Bab al-Hawa border crossing, which has among the highest concentration of displaced civilians in northwest Syria and also serves as a humanitarian lifeline," he said.

Pedersen warned: "The potential for further mass displacement and even more catastrophic human suffering is apparent, as an increasing number of people are hemmed into an ever-shrinking space."

Lawyer: Assange was offered US pardon if he cleared Russia

LONDON (AP) — WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange plans to claim during an extradition hearing that the Trump administration offered him a pardon if he agreed to say Russia was not involved in leaking Democratic National Committee emails during the 2016 U.S. election campaign, a lawyer for Assange said Wednesday.

Assange is being held at a British prison while fighting extradition to the United States on spying charges. His full court hearing is due to begin next week.

At a preliminary hearing held in London, lawyer Edward Fitzgerald

said now-former Republican congressman, Dana Rohrabacher, visited Assange at the Ecuadorian Embassy in London in August 2017.

Fitzgerald said a statement from another Assange lawyer, Jennifer Robinson, recounted "Mr. Rohrabacher going to see Mr. Assange and saying, on instructions from the president, he was offering a pardon or some other way out, if Mr. Assange ... said Russia had nothing to do with the DNC leaks."

Responding to the the lawyer's claims, White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham said, "This is absolutely and completely false."

Colorado tool manufacturer to close, lay off 164 employees

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — The owner of a Colorado hand tool manufacturing plant plans to close and lay off all of its 164 employees.

Ideal Industries Inc. confirmed Tuesday that the company will close Western Forge after 54 years in Colorado Springs, The Gazette reported.

The company has not yet set a closing date, but will continue operating the plant until current customer orders are filled, an Ideal Industries representative said.

The closure resulted from retail giant Sears selling its Craftsman tool division nearly four years ago and moving tool manufacturing operations offshore, the company said.

Illinois restricts how students are secluded and restrained

CHICAGO (AP) — The Illinois State Board of Education voted unanimously to adopt permanent rules that ban the use of locked seclusion rooms and prohibit schools from using prone restraint, a move that restricts the state's rules more than ever.

The new rules approved on Tuesday specify instances in which seclusion is prohibited, contrary to the previous rules which allowed seclusion only for "safety" reasons. Now, seclusion cannot be used "as discipline or punishment, convenience for staff, retaliation, a substitute for appropriate educational or behavioral support, a routine safety matter, or to prevent property damage."

The board also banned locks on rooms, and prohibited employees from holding the doors shut to keep children inside.

Schools can place students alone in seclusion rooms when they're "engaging in extreme physical aggression" and it would be unsafe for an adult to be present in the room with them, The Chicago Tribune reported.

Another major change is the duration of seclusion, which previously allowed schools to isolate students for 30 minutes. The new rules direct schools to release students "immediately" after they stop posing an "imminent danger" to themselves and others.

Police: Woman planned to kill 3 kids with carbon dioxide

O'FALLON, Ill. (AP) — A southern Illinois woman is facing charges she planned to kill her three young children with carbon dioxide, authorities said.

Emily C. Sparks, 29, of O'Fallon, is being held in the St. Clair County Jail on three counts of attempted murder, the St. Clair County State's Attorney's office said.

Her two sons and daughter, ages 3, 5 and 7, are being cared for by relatives, O'Fallon police Lt. Nicholas Schmidt said.

Police received a tip that Sparks had planned to kill her children Dec. 4 and learned that Sparks had purchased a canister of carbon dioxide, Schmidt said.

"She was going to open the canister of carbon dioxide inside the closed passenger compartment of the vehicle with her three children inside," said Schmidt, the lead investigator in the case.

Sparks had planned to kill herself with the children, but changed her mind at the last minute, Schmidt said.

Toxic Superfund cleanups drop to more than 30-year low

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration completed the fewest cleanups of toxic Superfund sites last year than any administration since the program's first years in the 1980s, figures released by the Environmental Protection Agency indicated Wednesday.

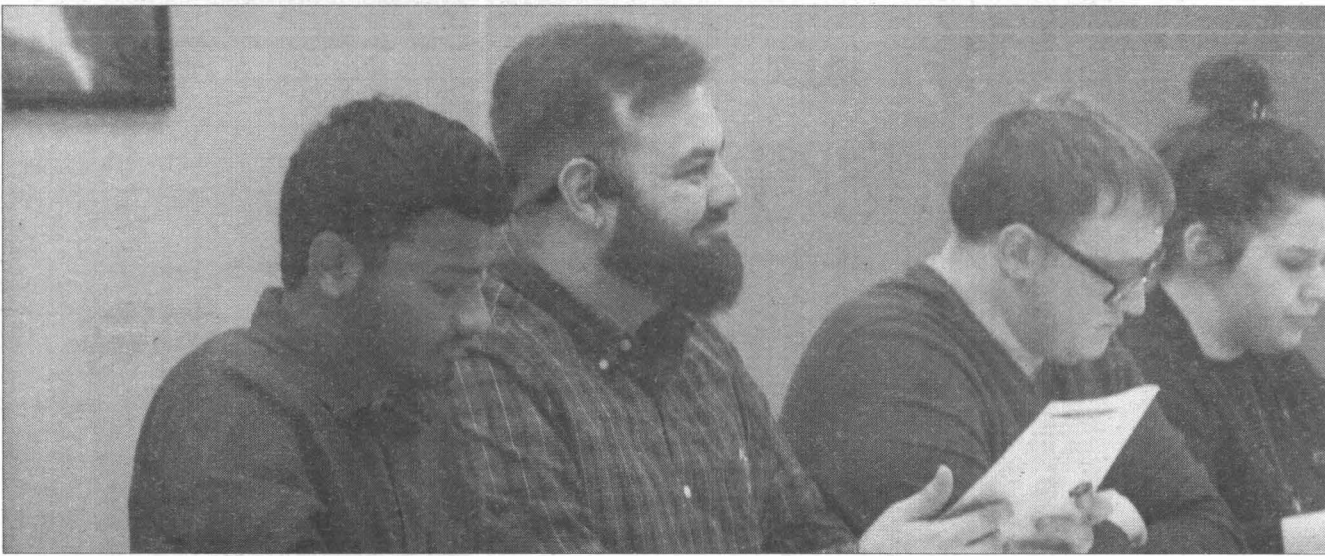
The federal government wrapped up cleanups at six Superfund sites around the country in the 2019 budget year, the fewest since three in 1986, EPA online records showed.

The Superfund program was born out of the 1970s disaster at Love Canal in New York, where industrial contaminants poisoned groundwater, spurred complaints of health problems and prompted presidential emergency declara-

tions. Congress started the Superfund program in 1980, with the mission of tackling the country's worst contaminated sites to remove the threat to surrounding residents and the environment.

President Donald Trump campaigned on pledges to cut environmental protections he saw as unfriendly to business. In office, Trump has presided over rollbacks and proposed rollbacks of a series of protections for air, water, wildlife and other environmental and public health concerns, as well as sharp declines in many categories of enforcement against polluters.

The EPA posted the 2019 figures on its website earlier this month. The tally also shows one cleanup completed so far this budget year.



JALYN LONGN | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Student senators tune into the Student Senate meeting Wednesday night in the Arcola/Tuscola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Senate approves Study Abroad Club

By **Jelan Buchanan**
Staff Reporter | @DEN_news

Student Senate voted 16-1 in favor of approving the Study Abroad Club as a new Registered Student Organization Wednesday evening.

Some senators expressed their concerns approving the RSO because of its small size: three members as of Wednesday.

But after discussion, some senators argued that the club would likely attract more members anyway.

Amanda Kiessling, president of the Study Abroad Club and a senior Spanish major, said her goals are to raise awareness because a lot of students do not know how many resources and countries they have to offer.

Kiessling said all students can join the club as long as they are interested in learning about studying abroad. She said it is even better if interested students have experience.

She said social media promotion is one of the routes she will take when recruiting new members.

"We have a lot of ideas. I'm actually the social media head at

the Study of Abroad Office, so I have some experience in this. I plan on posting on my own social media," Kiessling said.

Kiessling said students also give their contact information to the workers at the office if they are interested.

"We will reach out to returning study abroad students and put up some posters. I believe when I visited the Student Activities Center, they told me that we may be able to set up a stand at the Union to put the word out and talk to students about it," Kiessling said.

Claude Samira Abdoulaye Pedila, Vice President of Student Affairs and senior psychology major, said it has been challenging to get more minorities involved with student activities on campus.

"I know that in the past four years that I've been here, this is the first year where I've seen a lot of minorities go to the events that have been put on, so hopefully through word of mouth and hopefully the event I have with the Zetas and NAACP we will get people out and get involved on campus," Pedila said.

Jelan Buchanan can be reached at 581-2812 or at jjbuchanan@eiu.edu.

CAA to vote on revision to credit for prior learning

By **Corryn Brock**
News Editor | @corryn_brock

The Council on Academic Affairs will vote on an action item to revise credit for prior learning during its meeting Thursday at 2 p.m. in Room 4440 of Booth Library.

If approved, the proposal will change the language for the credit for prior learning via portfolio section of the catalog.

The change will delete most of the language and add in some leaving the policy to say: "Eastern Illinois University awards credit for prior learning following the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) standards. Students should consult their major department to determine if the program they are enrolled in accepts course credit earned through prior learning via portfolio, and to obtain information about all relevant procedures and protocol."

In the rationale for the changes it says the change is necessary because the potential new language "creates general language that can be applied to any and all academic programs, thus reducing potential future edits to the governing academic regulations."

The council will also vote on a new biochemistry minor.

Currently there is a biochemistry major but not a complimentary minor for it available with chemistry majors and minors.

The rationale for the proposed new minor is to reward students who are not biochemistry majors but have taken additional courses with a biochemistry major and the new minor "will be of interest to students in other degree programs who are seeking to enter the life sciences job sector or interdisciplinary graduate programs."

CAA will vote on revisions to the management information systems major and hospitality and tourism management option.

The council will also vote on revisions to the neuroscience and religious studies.

CAA will also vote on:


- A new course, Introduction to Databases for Business Analytics
- A new course, Introduction to Business Intelligence
- A new course, Business Analytics Project
- A revised course, Business Analytics Programming
- A revised course, Economic Botany

The council will discuss suspension of its bylaws and revising the nomination requirements for faculty laureate.

Corryn Brock can be reached at 581-2812 or at cebrock@eiu.edu.

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Keep hate messages off campus

Plastic bags filled with a rock and a poster decorated with a swastika that reads "White Power. Get Some!" were left around Eastern's campus on Wednesday, a majority of which were found in Eastern's Greek Court.

To whomever left these hateful messages around our campus, we at *The Daily Eastern News* say to you this: Don't come back to our school. Don't come into our community. Don't come back to our campus. Leave your hate, bigotry and ignorance somewhere else.

Eastern does not want you here. The students do not want you here. The faculty does not want you here. The community does not want you here.

Stay away.

Your message of hate and stupidity will garner no traction on our campus. Your cause will find no sympathy here.

You are not welcome here.

While we at *The Daily Eastern News* recognize it is the first amendment right of whichever person or group of intolerant people that did this to exercise their freedom of speech and voice their uneducated and horrible opinions. We want to assure you: No one at this school wants to hear it.

Your message has fallen upon deaf ears. No one will come to your cause. Eastern wants no part of the hate you tried to bring our campus on Wednesday.

Rather, your futile message has instead reminded all of us that while we at Eastern welcome most to our campus with open arms, you are not among them.

Eastern is an institution that prides itself on diversity, and your naïve and ignorant attempt at changing that will not kill that pride. Eastern will today and will always be a place where people from all races, sexual orientations and backgrounds are welcome. You cannot change that.

Do not waste your time by coming back to this campus. You will only make fools of yourselves when you realize you have no place in our community. We don't care where you take yourselves or your message; just do not bring it back here.

We hope that one day you can come to realize how wrong your beliefs are and maybe you can get the help you need to live a life not filled with hate. But until then, stay away from Eastern; nobody wants you here.

The daily editorial is the majority opinion of the editorial board of *The Daily Eastern News*.

Letters to the Editor

Those interested can inquire at opinions.DEN@gmail.com for all opinion questions, submissions and letters to the editor. Please allow a week for us to publish letters to the editor.

The Editor reserves the right to not publish letters. Letters that are 250 words or less will be prioritized, but longer ones will be considered by the editorial board.

Please include your name and phone number to verify letters.

For more information please call 217-581-2812.

Quote of the Day:

"Fear of something is at the root of hate for others, and hate within will eventually destroy the hater."

-George Washington Carver

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'Using dreams' are the worst nightmares

One of the hardest things for any recovering addict is having to deal with using dreams.

For any of you who do not know what using dreams are, it is pretty simple.

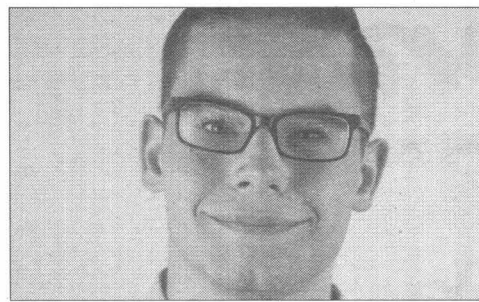
A using dream is when you dream that you are using a substance, whether that be a substance like cocaine, or a substance such as alcohol.

It is more common to have these dreams when you first get clean and sober. When these dreams occur, a person usually wakes up frantic because they feel as though the dream was something that really happened.

I first experienced using dreams last year when I was in rehab. They were a little scary, but as the day went on I was able to sort of forget about them.

For the last three or four nights, the using dreams have been coming back. And these are worse than any I have ever experienced.

Tuesday night, I dreamt one of the worst



ANDREW PAISLEY

dreams I have ever had. I dreamt that I had used a substance. I am not sure which substance it was, but I think I had drank alcohol. I remember that in the dream I had to go back to rehab and I had so many feelings of guilt and shame because I had relapsed.

I woke up in a complete panic because the dream was so intense and so real that I actually had to think for a few minutes before I realized that it was not reality.

I really think these dreams are coming back to me because of the fact that I am coming up on one year clean.

The dream I had Tuesday night affected me all day Wednesday, and it really made me feel so scared and so anxious.

After talking to some other people in Narcotics Anonymous, I realize that when these dreams occur, I have to accept them and remember that they are not real life, but I cannot dwell on them.

If I dwell on these dreams, my fears of relapsing become too extreme and too intense, to the point where a relapse could actually occur.

I know I will be OK, though. I just have to keep doing what I have been doing.

Andrew Paisley is a senior journalism major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or at abpaisley@eiu.edu.

Getting obsessed over anime is so easy

Who wants to be considered a weeaboo? Nobody wants to be that non-Japanese person who's obsessed with Japanese culture, stereotyping Japanese people and denouncing their own culture.

When I was younger, my sister and I were really into Toonami's program. We would stay up all hours of the night to watch "Bleach," "Deathnote" and "Inuyasha." I have a theory that this is where my insomnia stems from.

Before that, us and all of our cousins would geek out over "Pokémon," "Dragon Ball Z," "Digimon" and "Yu-Gi-Oh!" We made our parents buy us the cards and take us to the movies that made it to the big screen. We cried when we thought Ash was dead, we cheered when he lived. That stuff was our life.

Now, for about a decade, I have reformed myself to not openly watch or like anime except for "Attack on Titan" — "Attack on Titan" is terrifying, and I love being scared. Here's the problem with that: "Na-



MEGAN KEANE

ruto" is on Netflix, and I loved "Naruto" when I was little. I totally wanted to be a ninja from the Hidden Leaf Village.

So, innocently, I clicked on "Naruto." I just wanted to play it as familiar background noise while I read and got ready for bed.

In hindsight, I'm now realizing that I secretly

wanted to be consumed by this ninja sinkhole, but if you had asked me at that time, I would have insisted that was not the case. I'm now in the "Naruto" sinkhole.

The other night, I stayed up until 2 a.m. trying to figure out how Sasuke redeemed himself and married Sakura.

I could be doing homework that whole time — nay, I should be sleeping.

Anime is so time-consuming. It's exactly like consuming a good sci-fi/fantasy story; it's just in cartoon form.

If I start openly running around campus with my arms swung behind my back, claiming I want to be the next Hokage and that I'm looking for my buddy Sasuke, just put me out of my misery.

Megan Keane is a senior English and psychology major. She can be reached at mkeane@eiu.edu.

» REPORTING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Officials knew it was a kidnapping when camera footage of Christensen offering a ride to Zhang emerged.

Zigterman said that he had to adapt quickly from receiving news about the case to focusing his attention on writing his next story.

"You're doing a little processing to think about what's the most important from this section, but it is tough. After each day, I would go to usually like a local Starbucks and go through all my notes and write the whole story for the next day's paper. That's when I would think more about how to craft a clever or nice lead," Zigterman said.

Zigterman learned a lot while covering this tragic event and researching subjects he never thought he would need to in his field of reporting.

"I cover business and city councils, not crime usually, so I just learned a lot about how the criminal processes work, and there's not many death penalty trials in Illinois anymore, so I was calling up experts from across the country about the death penalty ... A lot of it was practical — learning how to cover courts for the first time," Zigterman said.

Zigterman hopes that the coverage and attention the case got can also be educational for those interested in pursuing journalism or media careers.



LOGAN RASCHKE | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Ben Zigterman, reporter for the *News-Gazette*, explains his process writing articles about the kidnapping and murder of Yingying Zhang, a crop scientist from the University of Illinois, Wednesday during a discussion at the Doudna Lecture Hall of the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

Ryan Meyer can be reached at 581-2812 or at rmeyster@eiu.edu.

» SCHOLARSHIPS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Members in the committee are Shank, Richard Wandling, retired political science department chair; history professor Bailey Young; Robert Whittenbarger, retired sociology department chair; and John Willem, the interim chair of the School of Business.

McNitt said his role in the big picture

is to continue to ask for support for the endowment, something he says is valuable.

He said he got involved with this because he wanted to be able to do something after he retired from the university.

"I was looking for something to do

after I retired....and I was not happy with what was going on with the university and the state and the funding there (in 2015) and I thought (starting the endowment) was a productive way to deal with my anger," McNitt said. "I was upset with the loss of funding and it was much better to do

something about the loss of funding than to yell and scream."

McNitt said current faculty, staff, alumni and the administration are very supportive of their efforts and he hopes the support will continue years after he decides to move back east to be closer to his children.

But until then, he said he will continue to encourage people to give, he will continue to write letters and address envelopes and, "keep praising the cause."

Analicia Haynes can be reached at 581-2812 or achaynes@eiu.edu.

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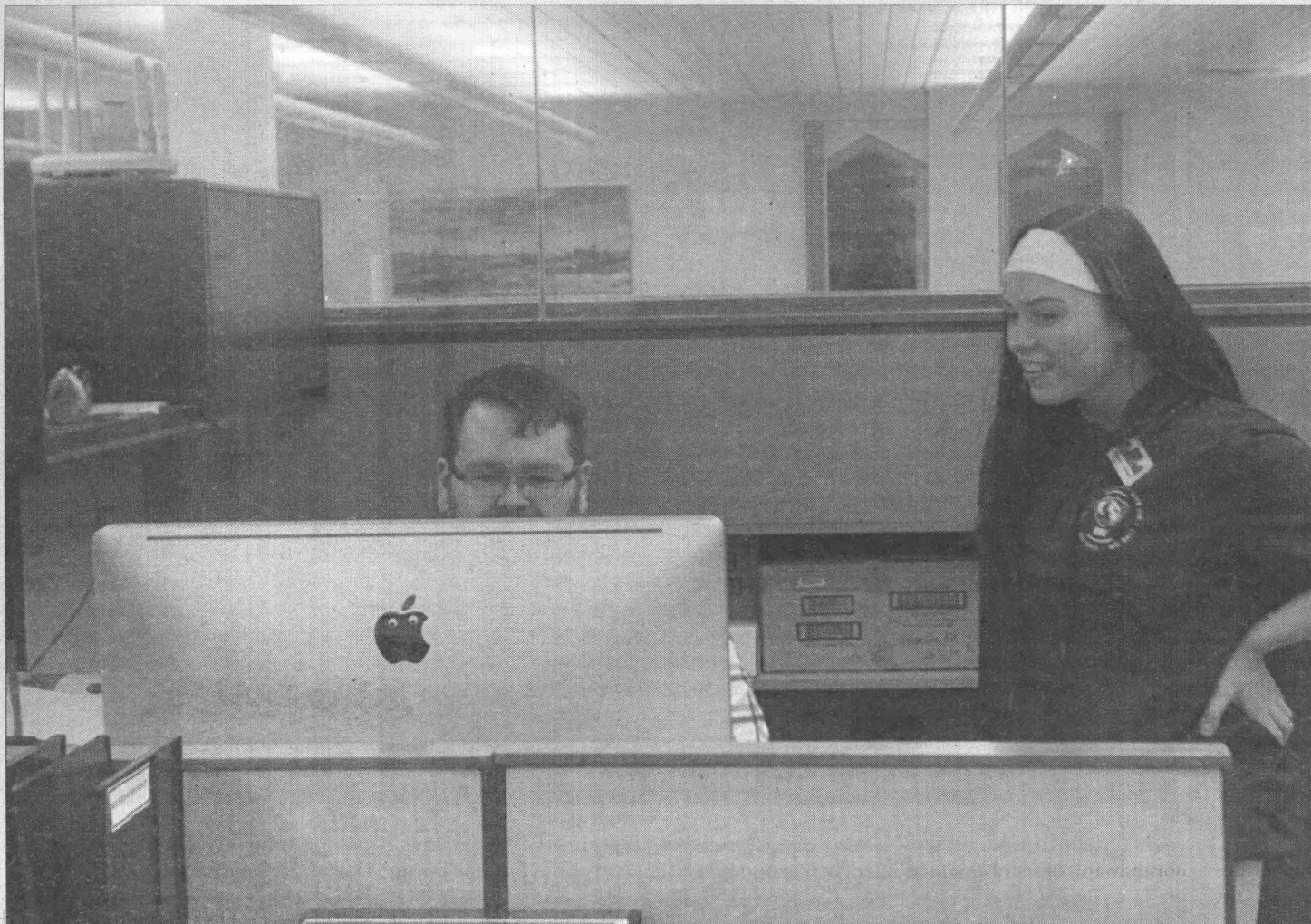
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Booth shift



MIRANDA MARTINEZ | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Jennifer Reid, a sophomore elementary education major, and Logan Braddock, a library assistant, take a look at digital files while working at Booth Library. During their shift, they assess patrons needs, help with printing paper, work on projects, check out books and/or DVDs for patrons and look at digital files.

The New York Times
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

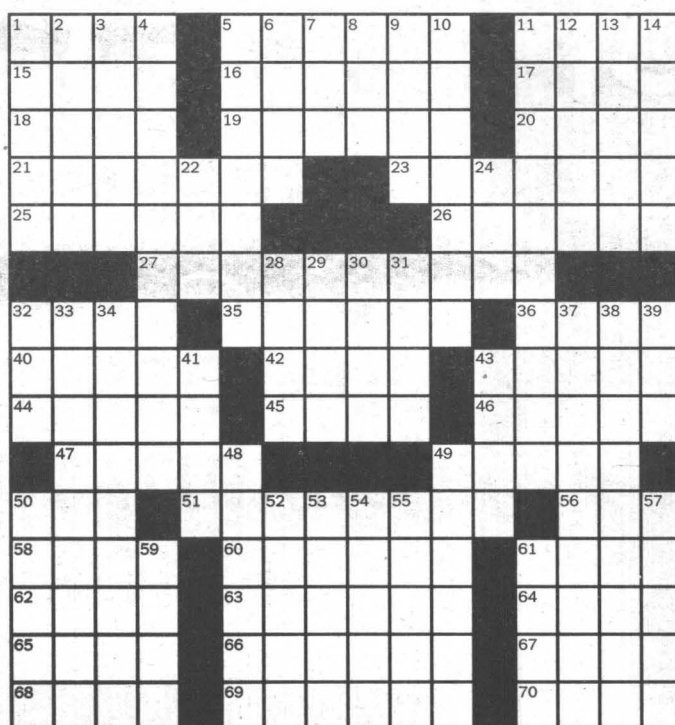
No. 0116

ACROSS

- 1 White pizza topping
5 Green bits of ornamentation
11 Masala ____ (hot beverage)
15 Bestower of the Movies for Grownups Awards
16 Keep the beat, in a way
17 Parts of a nuclear reactor
18 Where Miners have majors
19 Type of fluffy wool
20 ____ surgeon
21 Word following sing or play
23 Furrowed feature
25 Wait on
26 Tribal leaders
27 Language that's the source of "gesundheit"
32 Uber alternative?
35 Pint-size
36 ____ Day and the Knights ("Animal House" group)
40 Suits
42 "____ it!" ("Hush!")
43 Place for a bench
44 Ancient name for Ceylon
45 Terse rebukes
46 Invite to the roof, say
47 Like a desk that's a sign of genius, it's said
49 Gobbledygook, metaphorically
50 Flight schedule abbr.
51 The mister, affectionately
56 N.L. East city, on scoreboards
58 Lithuanian, e.g.
60 In the worst way
61 Neighbor of an Arkansawyer
62 It has cork and a bell
63 1950s-'70s football star nicknamed "The Golden Arm"
64 Part of a pot
65 Bra brand
66 Stop waffling
67 Fight protractedly
68 E, F and G, but not H
69 Opposite of the point?
70 Collectors' goals

DOWN

- 1 Animals, collectively
2 Face-plant, say
3 Ice cream cone, e.g.
4 Breakfast cereal in a green box
5 Routine activity?
6 Beer ____
7 On the ____ (frequently, in slang)
8 Skater Midori
9 Attire
10 "I don't want to hear it"
11 Sounds made by fans
12 Lena of "Cabin in the Sky"
13 Firefighter Red
14 Lands in the sea
22 Hawaiian fish with a palindromic name
24 Ending with pay



PUZZLE BY ERIK AGARD AND JEFF CHEN

- 28 Squiggle on a musical score
29 Ends up with
30 Sci-fi forest dweller
31 Trees with red berrylike fruit
32 Funnyman Brooks
33 Piece of furniture often covered with crinkly paper
34 Study of rocks
37 What five answers in this puzzle do phonetically, in defiance of their clues?
38 Language of the Canadian Arctic
39 Conciliatory gesture
41 Window frame
43 Trim
48 "Sup, bro!"
49 Yellowstone attraction
50 Work on a tablet
52 Bay Area athlete, for short
53 Kane of "All My Children"
54 Sightings in the Himalayas
55 Oar
57 English city where the Who once recorded a top 5 live album
59 11-Across and others
61 Bumbling bunch

Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 7,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).
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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

S	C	O	T		A	C	E	R		S	P	I	E	D	
C	H	A	I		L	O	W	E		M	A	C	E	D	
H	I	T	B	E	L	O	W	T	H	E	B	E	L	T	
U	M	B	E	R					A	A	A	S			
S	P	A	R	R	I	N	G		P	A	R	T	N	E	R
S	S	R			D	O	L	E	S		A	N	O		
				E	R	I	T	U			A	N	N	U	L
T	H	E	G	L	O	V	E	S	A	R	E	O	F	F	
H	A	N	G	S		P	A	N	S	Y					
A	T	T			K	I	O	S	K		T	M	C		
T	H	R	O	W	I	N	T	H	E	T	O	W	E	L	
				L	O	L	L			E	N	O	L	A	
P	U	L	L	O	N	E	S	P	U	N	C	H	E	S	
A	V	O	I	D		T	H	U	G		U	I	E	S	
C	A	G	E	Y		S	E	T	H		E	T	S	Y	

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Panthers host Murray State Thursday

By Vince Lovergine

Men's Basketball Reporter@VinceLovergine

If there was any time for the Eastern Illinois men's basketball team to pick up some wins, it is right now.

But it will not be easy as the Panthers welcome the two top teams in the Ohio Valley Conference, with Murray State greeting the Panthers first Thursday and then Austin Peay Saturday.

Eastern is in a tie with Jacksonville State for the eighth spot in the conference at 5-9 but sits one game behind Morehead State.

With both games being at home for Eastern, it could help considering the Panthers lost to the Racers and Governors by a combined seven points on the road.

Eastern played well against Murray State in its first matchup, and Eastern head coach Jay Spoonhour hopes to bring some things from that game into Thursday.

"We had a terrific rebounding effort at their place," he said. "We won't be able to rely on that same number again, but hopefully we can defend as well as we did."

Eastern did start off 7-0 in Lantz Arena, but the Panthers have lost two of its last three on its own court.

Junior guard Mack Smith has been a staple for the team in terms of defense and the ability to create plays for his teammates, and considering Eastern has its two toughest tasks yet, the team could use these big wins.

"Playing smart, hard and controlling the pace of the game," Smith said. "It will mean a lot to defeat both teams that are at the top of our conference."

Eastern has lost two games in a row and those came against Southern Illi-



ADAM TUMINO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Mack Smith rises for a three-point shot attempt during Eastern's 76-74 loss to Southern Illinois Edwardsville Feb. 13 in Lantz Arena. Eastern faces Murray State Thursday after the women's game.

nois Edwardsville and Tennessee-Martin.

Edwardsville and the Skyhawks are No. 9 and 10 in the standings, but they are just one game back of pushing themselves into the playoff picture.

Josiah Wallace has been a spark for the Panthers' offense lately, reaching 20 or more points in four straight games after dropping 20 against the Skyhawks Saturday night.

Wallace currently leads the team in

scoring at 14.6 points per game, but in OVC play he is a different animal, boosting his totals to 19.1 points per game.

And a streak like this has not occurred since 2014 when Sherman Blanford did it with five consecutive games.

Eastern will need a full team effort if it wants to win Thursday, especially from big men George Dixon and Jordan Skipper-Brown. Skipper-Brown

posted a double-double with 14 points and 13 rebounds against Tennessee-Martin, while Dixon nabbed his ninth double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds in the same game.

"If (Skipper-Brown) is dialed in, he can really impact the game," Spoonhour said. "He's been active and against (Tennessee-Martin), he stayed out of foul trouble. Staying on the floor is the first key to having a good game."

In fact, that was the first time two Panthers players recorded double-doubles in the same game since 2018, also against Tennessee-Martin.

The Panthers remain under .500 right now at 12-14, but they could post a winning record by the season's end if their cards are dealt right.

Vince Lovergine can be reached at 581-2812 or vplovorgine@eiu.edu.

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Track, field to host Friday Night Special

By Dillan Schorfheide
Sports Editor | @Dill_DENSports

Dustin Hatfield headlines Eastern's track and field team as the Panthers get ready to compete Friday.

Eastern will host the EIU Friday Night Special Friday in the Lantz Field House, and Hatfield comes into the competition as the last Eastern athlete to win an OVC Athlete of the Week award: The Ohio Valley Conference Male Track Athlete of the Week.

At the Notre Dame Meyo Invite, Feb. 7 and Feb. 8, Hatfield won the 3000 meter run with a time of 8:14.06, which is a personal best time. The time is also the current top time in the OVC for the event, and it ranks seventh all-time for Eastern. His performance at Notre Dame earned him the Athlete of the Week honors.

Hatfield has been named the OVC Athlete of the Week three times in his career, with the first time being last Spring. He also is the first Eastern athlete to win the award twice this year, with the awards coming in different events.

The first time Hatfield won the award this season was Jan. 18 at the EIU John Craft Invite in the mile event.

At the Meyo Invite, the only other male track athlete to podium for the Panthers was Joe Smith. Smith placed third in the triple jump with a jump of 50 feet, which is the second time he hit 50 feet in the event this season.

Despite not placing in the top five, Jaime Marcos placed sixth in the 5000 meter run with a time of 14:36.33, which earned him the top spot in the OVC for the event.

Shandall Thomas was the only

other Panther to place in the top 10, as he finished ninth in the 60 meter dash with a time of 6.92 seconds.

For the women's track and field team, only two Panthers finished in the top 10 at the Meyo Invite.

Lindsey Carlson, a four-year defender for the women's soccer team and now competing in track for the first time at Eastern, continues to shine for the Panthers. She finished sixth at Notre Dame in the 5000 meter run with a time of 17:14.73.

That time moves Carlson up to fifth all-time for Eastern and No. 1 in the OVC.

The only other women's athlete to finish in the top 10, Grace Rowan, finished eighth in the mile with a time of 4:53.89. That time moves her up to No. 4 all-time for Eastern, and she stays in the top spot in the OVC.

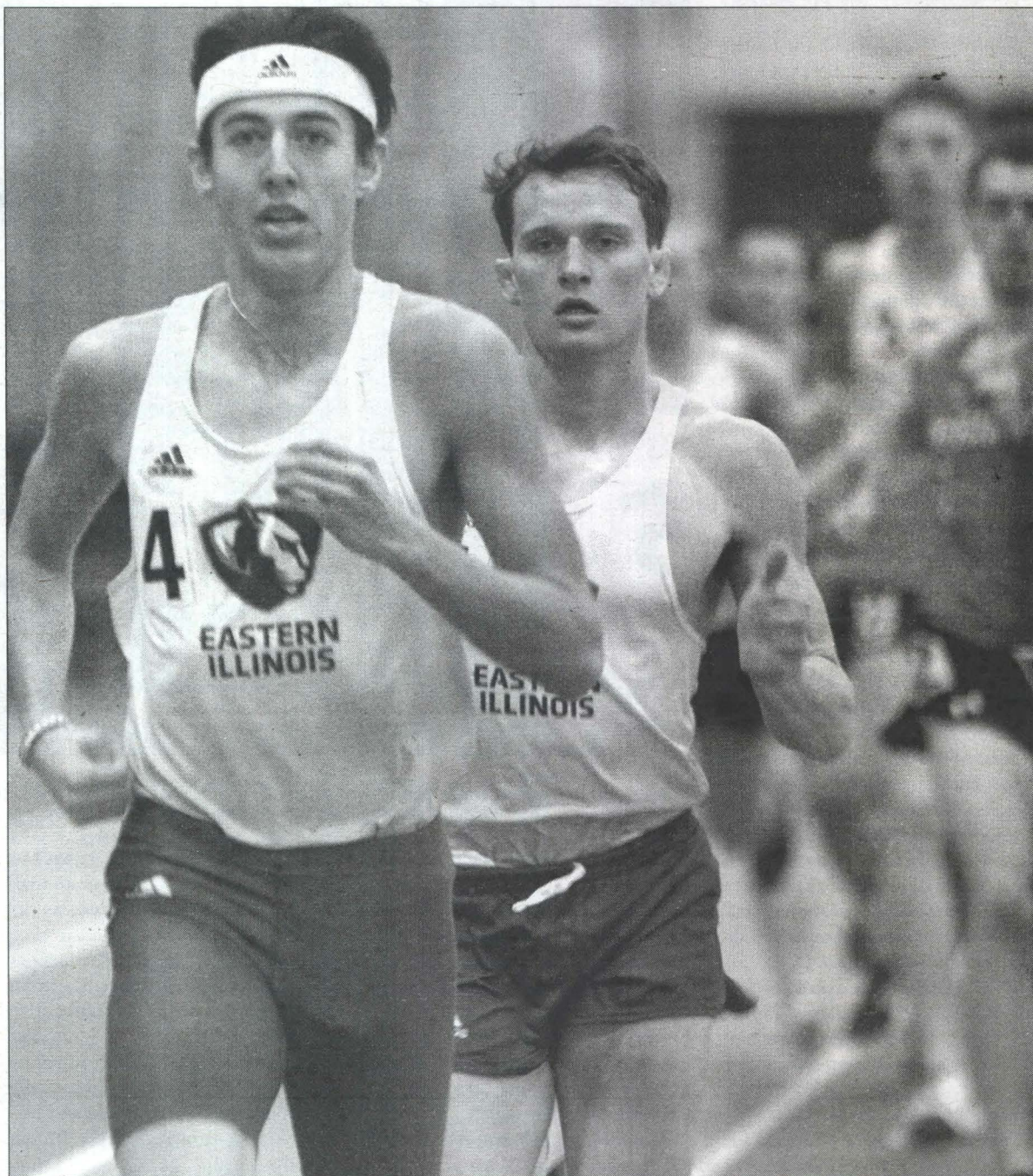
The EIU Friday Night Special is the last competition of the indoor track season before the OVC Indoor Championships, which take place Feb. 26 and Feb. 27 in Alabama.

Last Spring, in the EIU Friday Night Special, both the men's and women's teams finished third, and the Panthers ended the meet with 28 top 10 finishes overall.

Last year at the OVC Indoor Championships, the men's team finished second, while the women's team finished ninth.

If any Panthers make the NCAA Indoor Championships, they take place March 13 and 14. After that, the outdoor track season starts April 4.

Dillan Schorfheide can be reached at 581-2812 or dtschorfheide@eiu.edu.



KARINA DELGADO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Marcus Skinner (left) and Dustin Hatfield (right) lead a pack of runners together during a distance event at the EIU John Craft Invite Jan. 18 in the Lantz Field House. Eastern's track and field program competes at the Grand Valley State Big Meet Friday.

Women's basketball team hosts Racers in revenge game

By JJ Bullock
Editor-in-Chief | @bullockjj

One win for the Eastern women's basketball team (9-5 OVC) this week and the Panthers will guarantee themselves a conference tournament bid for the first time since the 2014-2015 season.

Two wins for the Panthers this week and Eastern will secure its first 10-plus OVC win season since 2012-2013.

But first Eastern must beat a team that handed it its most disappointing loss of the season: Murray State.

When the Panthers and Murray State (5-9 OVC) met for the first time Jan. 30 Eastern appeared to have the game all locked up late in the fourth quarter, leading the Racers by double-digits.

Murray State clawed back, however, making a last-second shot to force overtime before eventually downing the Panthers in the extra period, 92-87.

It was a game the Panthers wanted back as surely as it was one they would like to forget. Now the same team that gave Eastern its toughest loss of the season is the one standing between Eastern and a guaranteed spot in the conference tournament.

Eastern head coach Matt Bollant says he feels the way Eastern lost to Murray State in January has in-



DILLAN SCHORFHEIDE | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Lariah Washington charges toward the basket during a fast break in Eastern's 67-62 victory over Morehead State Feb. 8 in Lantz Arena. Eastern faces Murray State Thursday in Lantz Arena at 5:15 p.m.

creased the motivation headed into Thursday night's rematch.

"I think it's a little bit easier (to find motivation) when you

play somebody who beat you, especially if you feel like maybe you should have beat them," Bollant said. "You hope (motivation) is higher, but you never know with 18-22-year-olds. But for me its motivation, 'Hey we didn't guard these guys, let's get some stops.'"

Eastern is somewhat lumped into the middle of the OVC standings with no clear direction to go, win or lose. Eastern has a two-game cushion over the six-seed Jacksonville State (7-7 OVC) and is three games behind the three teams tied for first place with 12-2 records. The closest team to Eastern is Tennessee Tech (10-4 OVC).

Eastern's place in the standings with just four games remaining has been a conversation Bollant and his coaching staff have tried not to have with the players but is one they have had internally.

"Not much with the players at all. With them, they need just enough to focus on this game, but certainly as a staff you look at who you'd like to play," Bollant said. "Obviously everyone is dangerous, everyone is good. But who do we matchup the best against and let's finish the best we can and be playing the best basketball we can to be ready."

Eastern will play Austin Peay (5-9 OVC) Saturday after Murray State, and despite the Panthers' 29-point victory over the Gover-

nors last time they played, Eastern expects the Governors to be better Saturday and knows they are facing a team playing for a conference tournament spot.

"(Austin Peay) is playing for their conference lives as well, so I think they'll come pretty motivated and certainly they won't like the way last one went and when they watch film of that game I think they're going to come pretty motivated," Bollant said.

The last time Eastern and Murray State faced off, Eastern freshman Lariah Washington scored a career-high 35 points.

Laci Hawthorne had a big game for the Racers, finishing with 20 points and 13 rebounds. Murray State's Alexis Burpo also had a double-double, scoring 21 points and grabbing 10 rebounds.

Eastern and Murray State tip off Thursday at 5:15 p.m. in Lantz Arena.

Saturday's matchup in Lantz Arena will be senior day for the Panthers, marking the last home game for Eastern's lone senior Jennifer Nehls. That game tips off at 1 p.m.

Bollant said the team will start Nehls on Saturday and hold something special for her at practice Friday.

JJ Bullock can be reached at 581-2812 or jpbullock@eiu.edu.